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March 25, 1999

Dockets Management Branch  
Food & Drug Administration  
Dept. of Health & Human Services  
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear FDA,

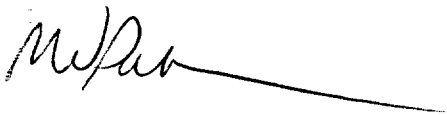
This is in reference to docket #98P-0203/CP regarding a petition to ban forced molting of "laying" hens. I urge you to grant this petition for the following reasons:

First of all, this practice of forced molting is cruel to the hens as they are starved for several days (I was shocked to learn they can be starved for up to 12 days!) and as a result many of hens die. In addition, many more die during refeeding since the poor starving birds tend to gorge themselves and choke on the feed as they try to eat too much too fast. This is absolutely horrendous and unacceptable.

Second, forced molting should be immediately ended because it can cause disease as it increases the spread of Salmonella Enteritidis infection. As a registered dietitian I find this totally objectionable.

Again, I ask that you grant this petition to stop forced molting. I thank you in advance for your kind regard to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



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98P-0203

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